

PHOENIX

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Twenty Pages

The controversy over



the prison system

Introduction

There has been much said over the prison situation in the past few months. Many people are advocating stronger prison control and many others are calling for a complete reorganization of the system. Anyone within distance of a newspaper, magazine, television or radio is quite aware of the recent uprisings and deaths in the prisons across this country. No doubt, everyone has some kind of opinion.

For this special issue of Phoenix we visited the prisons, talked with the inmates and the wardens. We called on the correctional officials in Sacramento, then visited the various organizations working for prison reform. We talked with men and women who had been in prison. We received intimate poems from an inmate of San Quentin who recently moved to another prison. We checked history books and discovered how prisons were founded in California. We entered a juvenile center and reported on the correctional methods used there. We visited with prisoners' families and learned their lifestyles.

In this issue, we tried to stay away from stories which have been dealt with by the local media, but we found that we couldn't help but report on some of the things which have been said before. They were just too important to ignore.

In many of our stories, we mention San Quentin and also, the indeterminate sentence.

San Quentin comes up so often for several reasons: 1) It is the closest prison in this area. 2) It is the oldest prison in California. 3) It has been the center of much controversy in recent months. 4) It is the only prison in this

state with an execution chamber. 5) On Aug. 21, 1971, the prison was the site of the death of George Jackson, a tragedy which affected many of us. 6) It houses some of the best known prisoners in California and the country.

The indeterminate sentence has been in effect for a long time now, and several attempts have been made to kill that law. It was removed once in 1935, but put back into effect in the mid-forties.

The argument against the indeterminate sentence has been that it demoralizes the inmates. For example, a person who is sentenced on a burglary charge can be given five years to life. These critics say such a sentence is so indefinite that prisoners on many occasions have given up on any hope of being released; thus converting them into state-nourished vegetables.

We don't profess to be experts on the prison situation now that we have assembled this issue. No doubt, we have only scratched the surface. For any kind of expertise on the matter, we would have had to spend several thousand hours researching the situation.

But we have gained much more insight into the problems. We the staff of Phoenix hope that this issue will also give you a better insight.

Many people will find this issue biased; that is, sympathizing with the prisoners and the call for prison reform. A bias, we won't hide, that's the way we feel. After many time-consuming hours interviewing people and seeing the conditions which surround them, we can only come to one conclusion—prison reform now!



Cover and centerfold photos by Boku Kodama

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section I 'The People'

Inmate's bad rap

By Roger Burr

The main gate of San Quentin closed with an ominous click as two reporters entered them, voluntarily sentenced to two hours interviewing inmates.

Those gates have closed, with that same ominous click behind approximately 2100 men who reside behind the concrete walls and iron gates of San Quentin, located in Marin County at the foot of the Richmond Bridge.

One hundred and three of these men await the gas chamber on San Quentins' infamous death row, some never getting outside to feel the fresh sea air.

Others serve less severe sentences, indeterminate sentences such as five years to life.

The inmates interviewed expressed hope for vast prison reform but did feel some things were worth preserving.

It is the indeterminate sentences that most inmates want abolished as the first step in prison reform.

An indeterminate sentence of five years to life means an inmate may be paroled after five years in prison, or may spend the rest of his life behind bars depending on his behavior.

Bob, an operator of KQS, San Quentin news radio, said the inherent evil of the indeterminate sentence is insecurity.

Most inmates are uneducated when they enter prison, but have a chance to finish high school while in San Quentin, he said.

But the inmate doesn't know if he'll ever have an opportunity to use his newly acquired education, he said.

If he is paroled in ten or fifteen years, the education will come in handy, but if he is paroled after twenty or thirty years, it is a waste of time and effort, Bob said.

Inmates Agree

Most inmates would agree with Bob, as did all those interviewed, that an end to the indeterminate sentence is but a part of the inmates' continuing demand for change in the prison system.

The indeterminate sentence was abolished in 1935, but went back into effect in 1944.

"The kind of change the inmates demand varies with each generation," said Bob, "each generation of inmates, that is."

Bob feels some of the prison system's major problems, such as racism, are perpetrated from the outside.

He said rabble-rousers from outside the prison system arouse the inmates, or persons engaged in racial strife, when sent to San Quentin, carry on their activities behind the high concrete walls.

"San Quentin is city," said Bob, "just like cities on the outside, with all the problems of any city its size."

Mike, the editor of the San Quentin News, the San Quentin newspaper, said racial tension peaks and dips.

"There are bigots on the inside just as there are bigots on the outside, they're just concentrated in here," he said.

"We were all shocked by the George Jackson thing," he said.

Jim, a reporter for the San Quentin News gave another reason for racial violence behind prison walls.

"Violence is a mode of survival, a way of life in prison," he said.

"It is easier to survive in a group, and racial groups: white, black, chicano, are formed more readily than ideological groups," he said.

"If violence is racial, each inmate can justify himself," Jim said.

Mike said members of the prison staff, such as guards, like to keep the pot boiling.

"They purposely set racial groups at each others' throats," he said.

Some guards give a guy a fair shake, and above all, are consistent in their actions, said Mike.

Others will smile at you, then turn around and write you up, he said.

Rumors run rampant behind prison walls, said Jim. He doesn't know if violent acts are planned

before or after the rumors.

As editor of the prison paper, Mike wants to print these rumors; get them out for all to see.

"But the prison administration likes to keep its head in the sand, censorship is a problem," he said.

"San Quentin is just another city, you can get anything you want," said Mike, "dope, . . . anything."

He refused to elaborate.

Sam is president of the Advisory Board.

The board is a group of inmates who carry the grievances of the inmates to the prison's administration.

He said most of the complaints prisoners have are for better food, individual treatment and better pay. (A working inmate receives two cents to 16 cents an hour.)

However, Sam believes there has been one improvement in San Quentin in recent months: less racial tension. The other inmates interviewed agreed.

"This is the least we've had in the last three or four years. August 21 was the turning point (this was the date George Jackson was killed). It seems as though everybody started to come together; there was more unity among us," said Sam.

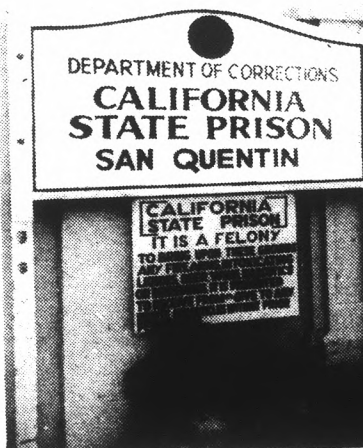


Photo by Ray Brutti

The outside (above) and the inside (below).



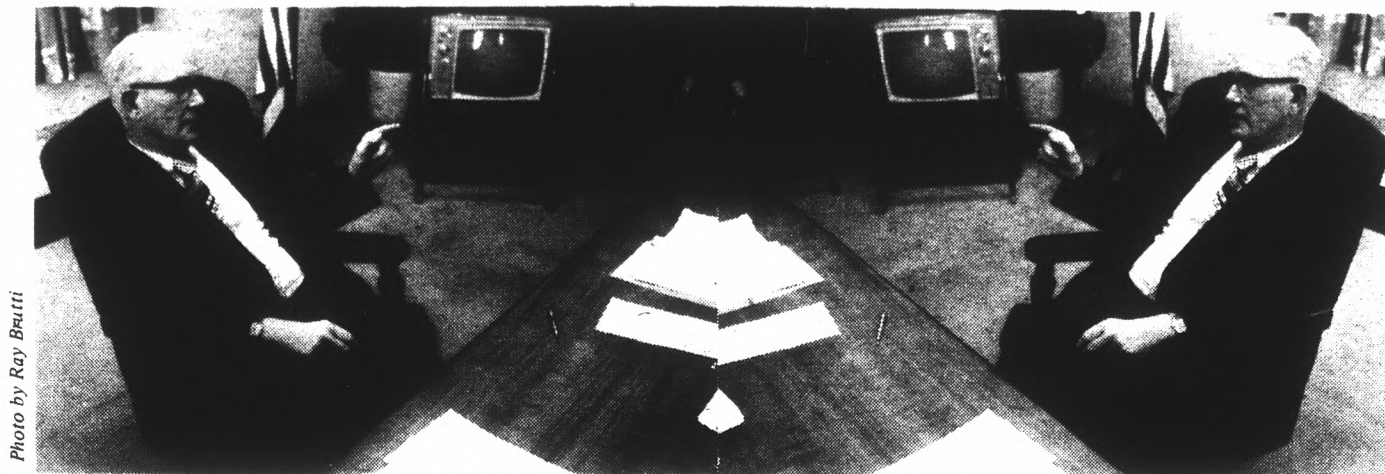


Photo by Ray Butti

Warden Nelson: Man with enough information for two.

By Eugene Gibson

San Quentin prison is 120 years old. The orange and grey walls loom high above the waters of northern San Francisco Bay. Like all prisons, it is clean from constant policing, but grim.

Louis S. Nelson has been San Quentin's warden since July, 1967. He heartily defends the old, ominous institution: "Because it's old, that doesn't mean you can't carry out good programs inside it," he said.

"We are being criticized from all sides," said Nelson. "Some say to crack down and others tell us to loosen up. Hard-liners complain that we're running a goddamn country club."

misfits since childhood and had trouble with their family, school, and juvenile authorities. This is just part of a long process."

According to Nelson, only 10 per cent of the state's convicted felons go to prison, half of them for violent crimes against other humans.

"A man does not change just because he is behind bars. Someone who is assaultive and dangerous on the outside is going to be the same inside.

"There has been more improvements in the last four years than during all the years I've been working in prisons," said Nelson. He attributed most of the improvements to Gov. Ronald Reagan.

and seven children who slept in sleeping bags on the floor.

San Quentin runs on a budget of \$12 million per annum, averaging out to approximately \$2,400 a year per prisoner.

"The question of reform is up to the public," said Nelson. "It is a matter of tax priority. The public and legislature voted down education bills which would provide money to produce valuable members of society. Do you think they will increase the budget for prisons?"

Nelson's main concern is inmate rehabilitation, or "readjustment" as he prefers to call it.

"Rehabilitation means to return to one's former state, which in this case is criminal," he said.

Training

The "Big Q" provides training in 15 vocational fields, including meat-cutting, plumbing and nursing. The output of male vocational nurses for San Quentin exceeds that of most medical schools, according to Nelson.

The institution is also authorized to grant the equivalent of a two-year junior college degree.

"If I had the funds, I would increase the educational and vocational training facilities here. Prisoners must be given the opportunity to improve themselves," said Nelson.

Although Nelson has no objections to capital punishment, (San Quentin is California's only death sentence facility with 103 men on Death Row), he is bitterly opposed to life imprisonment without parole.

Limbo

At present all condemned prisoners are in a state of limbo pending a federal investigation on the constitutionality of capital punishment.

"If there is absolutely no chance of getting out, the prisoner is reduced to a vegetable. He has no hope. He might as well be gassed," Nelson said.

Said Warden Nelson, "You can't talk about reform unless you talk about the family, home, community, and the judicial system. You can't change a story by rewriting the last chapter. And for a lot of prisoners, prison is the last chapter."

Big Q: 'No goddamn country club'

Nelson, 62, has been working in the prison system 31 years. He started as a uniformed staff member at McNeal Island Federal Penitentiary in Washington.

Today, he sits behind a huge, carved walnut desk, chewing an unlit cigar.

His walnut-panelled office in the minimum security section of San Quentin is spacious and red carpeted. On the wall is a gold record, "Live at San Quentin Prison," signed and presented to Nelson by Johnny Cash.

Nelson praises the California prison system and describes it as the most progressive and liberal in the nation. He is also quick to lay the blame of inadequate facilities and programs at the feet of society.

"You can't expect prisons to undo and correct the product of a ghetto or criminal environment. Most of the inmates at San Quentin have been

Reagan implemented the practice of conjugal visiting for prisoner's families. "Deserving" prisoners are allowed overnight visits from their families in seven housing units within the minimum security confines.

One inmate recently hosted his wife

**'The question
of reform
is up
to the public.'**

Families of prisoners

"They could've given him a job"

Both interviews
by Eric Berg

The steel glare of Candlestick Park in Hunter's Point looms over the roof tops of a cluster of buildings resembling decayed army barracks.

This is a government-owned apartment complex for low-income families. This is where Lois shares a tiny two bedroom apartment with her four kids and her sister and child for \$60 a month.

Lois's husband hasn't been home in two years. He is now serving a five years to life sentence at San Quentin for armed robbery.

In the living room the television was blaring away a re-run of "Laugh In" before a noisy audience of small children and an assembly of neighbors.

Cramped

Lois sat at the table in a cramped kitchen at the front of the house. Her pretty face looked worn with anxiety as she fidgeted with a roll of stamps between her fingers. The kitchen shelves were crammed with small jars of baby food.

As we talked the kitchen door opened periodically as numerous persons entered and departed on their way to the television.

"I used to pay \$96 for this roach-infested jungle," said Lois glancing at the dripping sink and the oven which provided most of the heat for the household.

"When I had my baby, I managed to talk the landlord down to \$60. If anything goes wrong in this hole, it'll be months before anyone fixes it."

Crowded

Lois's four kids, ranging in age from two months to seven years in age, sleep in the same bedroom with her while her sister shares the other bedroom with her child.

Lois used to work for the Post Office but quit when she had her baby. She says if her supervisor had known her husband was in prison, she might have been fired earlier.

She now collects welfare, babysits and thinks about her old man whom she visits regularly every two weeks behind a sheet of glass.

"It's fucked. He got off with the wrong kind of people and ended up in jail. God knows how long he'll be there," said Lois.

Parole doubtful

Her old man will be eligible for parole this month, but Lois doubts he will get it. She said her husband is not considered on good behavior terms because he was once an unofficial minister of information for the Black Panthers at prison. After some incidents at San Quentin last March, he was put into solitary confinement. He is locked up 23½ hours a day.

"How can a man have good behavior in such a hell-hole?" asked Lois.

She visits her husband regularly via a car pool.

"I usually have to wait two hours just to see my husband handcuffed behind a meshed glass plate. It's a mental mind-blower," said Lois. "If the guard feels good, I might get an hour or two to talk. If he feels bad, twenty minutes.

Day wasted

"Once I got there at 9 a.m. and waited until 3 p.m. when they told me they didn't have enough escorts to go around, so I couldn't see him. They could have told me that sooner so I wouldn't have had to wait for nothing all day."

Some of Lois's children have never lived with their father. They only know him as daddy behind a glass window. Lois said this life has been particularly hard on them.

Lois looks for the future, the day when he is released.

"We'll start all over. He'll be all different. He's a lot different now. He's turned mean, but he can't see

it. He acts like he's talking to the pigs all the time," she said sadly. "Still, I'll always love him forever."

Getting away

Lois barely manages to take care of her household, and looks forward to weekends when she can get away from the ghetto for a short while. Her friends take her to a club or away for the weekend or up to San Quentin to visit her man.

While Lois was talking, a neighbor, LaVerne, sat down to feed Lois's two month old baby. LaVerne lives in the same housing complex. She works and has an apartment with her child. La Verne's husband is serving a similar sentence for armed robbery at Susanville, a sort of "prison camp," as she described it.

LaVerne's husband robbed a gas station because he needed money to support his heroin addiction.

No smack

"I feel my husband is better off at Susanville. He's away from smack and he's learning a trade. He was a problem here. Smack was destroying our family life," LaVerne said.

Lois and LaVerne acknowledged high quality heroin is easily obtained in prison. They did not know if their husbands were getting any.

LaVerne's old man will be getting paroled soon because of good behavior. She feels he has paid for his wrong doing.

Lois described her husband as a man who "gets uptight" easily. Although this would jeopardize his chances for parole, she said "I'd rather him stand up and be a man than kiss ass."

Although Lois agreed her man is responsible for his actions, she said he committed a store robbery because he was unable to find work, needed money, and finally lost control of his emotions.

"How wrong was it, when they could have given him a job?" Lois asked.

She saves bullet-holed shirt

Sophie is a New Yorker and a Puerto Rican. She has been divorced twice and lives by herself in a neat little house off Sanchez Street in Noe Valley. She has acute diabetes, is partially disabled, and will collect welfare forever. She often gets emotionally upset, has had several nervous breakdowns, and her only son, David, is in prison for armed robbery.

Sophie wore a bulging black kimono and bright green pants. She walked over to a dresser and pulled out a sweater and undershirt that belonged to her son.

The sweater had a small hole in the side and the shirt, two holes in the chest area.

Bullet holes

"See these bullet holes? This is where my son got shot. It's a wonder he's alive. I'm going to frame these shirts. We're never going to forget this," said Sophie.

When her 21 year old son attempted to rob a liquor store in Redwood City, the owner shot him twice.

At that time Sophie had just gotten out of the hospital and hadn't been home two days when two policemen came to her door at night to inform her of the shooting.

"They told me my son had been shot with no more compassion than if my dog had been run over," recalled Sophie. "Jesus Christ! I thought they were going to take me to see my son, but instead, they closed the door and went on their merry way."

Wrong girls

Sophie's son, David, is at Tehachapi State Prison near Bakersfield. Sophie credits her son's problems to hanging out with the wrong girls.

"He gets too hung up on broads. He never met a girl who would help him. Always a girl who took pills," she said.

"When he was fifteen, his girl had a baby. He wanted to keep it but she gave it up for adoption. It broke his heart," she continued.

David began using downers and other pills.

"He took some LSD and flipped out. He was really confused after that. When he had another girlfriend at 18, the same thing happened. It really tore him apart. He tried to commit suicide twice," said Sophie.

Heavier drugs

Sophie realized her son's emotional dilemma and tried to get help. She also became aware her son was getting into heavier drugs.

"I used to work nights before I became paralyzed. I used to come home after work and find different faces here. Different voices began calling on the telephone for my son. His craving for sweets increased while his normal appetite decreased. Then I realized what was going on," said Sophie.

Sophie's suspicions were right. David was getting into smack. She called the police for help.

"They told me that they could only do two things: come to the house and take him forcibly or catch him shooting up somewhere," Sophie said.

Help

Sophie got some help from a local church pastor and a doctor at the general hospital. David realized his condition and once, while under the influence of drugs, turned himself in.

"When he came back, he said 'Gee mom, you sure

are cold putting me in jail.' I guess he didn't realize how he got there," said Sophie.

Sophie said David's girlfriend talked him into robbing the store. He used a fake gun but was shot in the chest by the store's owner, a retired policeman.

The girl was arrested and served a short sentence for being an accomplice. David spent two months in a hospital before eventually being sent to Tehachapi. He will be paroled soon.

Breakdown

Meanwhile, Sophie has suffered several emotional breakdowns.

"It's funny. You see the kids on the outside, but you tend to cover your eyes when it happens to your own," she said.

Sophie's legs are paralyzed. She can still walk, but she'll never be able to get a job again. So she sits at home thinking about her son. Her sole income is welfare and she is fighting off debt. Once, when a Phoenix reporter telephoned her, she thought he was a bill collector and pretended to be "Sophie's sister."

Sophie gets out of her house as much as possible. She walks down to Mission Street frequently and goes to the park. She is afraid of becoming an invalid.

No support

"I once thought I wouldn't be able to take all of this. My husband wouldn't support me and then my son went to jail. This prison business is all new for me," said Sophie.

continued on next page

Chronicle reporter on the inside

By Don Lau

Tim Findley, San Francisco Chronicle prison reporter, doesn't believe penal rehabilitation exists in California.

"There are some opportunities to learn a trade and to get an education in some prisons, but rehabilitation is nonsense," said Findley, who guest-lectured in William Chapin's "Today's Media" journalism class in October.

"The criminal will commit his crime, and in some cases, he's going to go back. Some guys just murder some guys out of passion---and they're going to die."

First prize

Findley and colleague Charles Howe received a first prize award from the San Francisco Press Club this year for their series on prison life.

The two reporters spent several weeks behind bars at San Quentin. They devoted each article to a different aspect of prison life.

"If I were going to start a prison, I wouldn't build a 'prison' like San Quentin," Findley said. "I'd go to the community and say, 'The community must take responsibility for its own outcasts.' You can't just throw a guy out like a leper and say 'rehabilitate this man.' Nonsense. The guy is going to go back to the community and face some of the

Photo by Don Lau



Tim Findley talks straight to students about prisons.

same problems that put him in prison in the first place.

Responsibility

"The community must recognize its responsibility in that context," Findley insisted.

Findley said society must recognize that its gut problems start from its own growing indifference to people's needs.

The Chronicle reporter said prisoners should be near their community and families to prevent feeling alienated and misguided.

Prison guards and prisoners both believe prisons should be changed, he said.

"Both are victims of a bureaucracy that doesn't understand either of their needs."

James Cagney

"Some people foolishly believe that prisons are like those in an old James Cagney movie---or that prisons ought to be what they saw in such a movie," Findley added.

He blamed the State Legislature and the nine-member Adult Authority for

perpetuating the indeterminate sentence.

"The Adult Authority is composed of an FBI agent, a former Richmond police chief, a former Los Angeles police detective, a Contra Costa narc agent or something like that. They're all cops. They're all appointed to the Adult Authority by the governor and they all get a \$25,000 salary."

Needs

"If we had an indeterminate sentence and an Adult Authority composed of community people who deal with penology, felons and what happens to a guy after he's committed, then these people can deal with their community and prison needs."

The Chronicle reporter said one can't talk about justice without first understanding crime.

"The more people get involved with the issue of crime, the less it's going to happen. We've got to stop the machine and put it down to a level where you don't feel like you're under a machine," Findley said.



Not so sterile: showers and kitchen on Alcatraz.



photo by Kevin Tobin

Prisoners family

continued from previous page

She visits her son regularly with the help of Connections. She spent her Christmas waiting and praying for David, who was allowed a 72 hour pass to go home.

Sophie is glad her son is getting something out of being in prison:

"The trade they gave him is not so good. He's learning to make shoes. Where do you find shoe work? He wants to make leather purses and things when he gets home. Already a teacher from State has promised him a job as a gardener," said Sophie;

Smack available

Her son is off smack now, but Sophie is well aware it is available in prison.

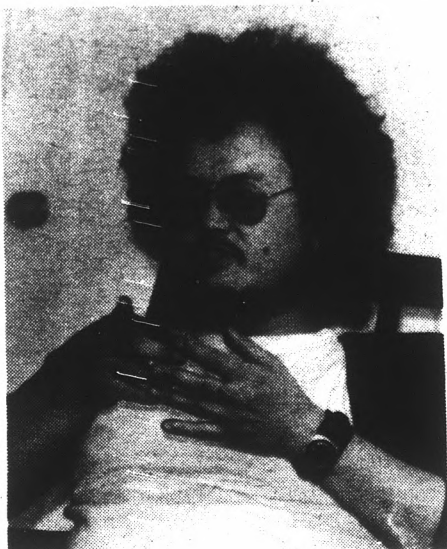
"Everyone knows that. How the hell can it go through if it's not the guards? After all, they check everything you bring into the place," she said.

Sophie said one way of getting smack or other drugs into prison is by filling a small balloon with the desired drug and passing it from mouth to mouth by kissing.

Sophie is looking forward to the day when David will come home.

"I'm going to pray for my son and that he does not get mixed up in drugs again; that he finds happiness and peace. He may get married. I hope he finds a good woman. It takes a woman to help a man."

Photos by Rick Der



Asian Ex-con's Prison Memoirs

Minority prisoners compose at least 50% of California's prisoner population. Phoenix interviewed a Third World ex-con concerning his impressions and experiences of prison life.

By Don Lau

As far as his parents were concerned, Ray was working back east.

"It's a traumatic experience for an Asian family to have a son in prison," he said.

Ray Tasaki, a 35 year-old Japanese-American ex-con, spent nine years in and out of county farms and various California prisons, such as Soledad and San Quentin, between 1960 and 1969.

He had been charged with possession and selling of dope.

Ray, is an experienced auto mechanic. He is currently unemployed and lives in Berkeley. In prison, he worked on cars confiscated by the state. Since his release he has visited Asian-American convicts as a community worker and studies political science on his own.

Harassment

The former prisoner said he didn't experience much anti-Asiatic discrimination in jail. However, he claimed blacks and Chicanos experienced discrimination and harassment by prison guards.

"The white cons always got the plush clerical jobs while blacks and Chicanos always got the dirtier details like KP," Ray said.

"There were only three Asians, myself included, at San Quentin when I was there in the early 1960's. But when I left prison in 1969, I saw a lot of Asians there."

Ray said discrimination against Third World people is magnified in prison because people are physically cramped together, and see each other daily.

"If you have some 200 guards without guns to guard several thousand prisoners, the odds aren't in their favor. They need something to keep the



Ray Tasaki

prisoners divided--racism. It even got to the point where white prisoners wore swastikas and identified with Nazism," Ray said.

He claims Third World convicts spend more time in jail than whites. Ray said he knew a Chicano prisoner who was convicted on his first charge of first degree burglary and imprisoned for four years while a white prisoner, in similar circumstances, only served two and a half years.

"There are a lot of guys in prison who are there for life. They're a bunch of zombies who don't give a shit and are kind of weird. They know that they have nothing in front of them and that they'll be in prison all their lives," Ray continued.

Ray knew a Chicano who thought someone was out to kill him. He so thoroughly convinced Ray and a few others of the alleged murder threat that they checked out books and magazines from the prison library to use as protective padding around their chests and waists.

A few days later, the paranoid Chicano was finally committed to a mental institution.

"People get killed during the morning formation in the prison courtyard. Everyone is jammed close together. A man who's in for life may come up to an-

other prisoner and stab him with a file that he sharpened in machine shop. Then, everyone spreads out as the body falls," he said.

The auto mechanic said stabbing someone is nothing to them. All they know is that they can get away with it unless someone snitches on them.

If a man is convicted on his first alleged sale of heroin, he usually gets the intermediate sentence, from five years to life imprisonment, according to Ray. The judge sentences the alleged pusher "as the law prescribes."

Lucky

"I was lucky when I got out of prison in 1969. I ran into the right people at the right time. We tried to develop a program to reach and educate our Asian brothers in prison and catch them when they come out so they wouldn't get caught in the same vicious cycle again. Its too early to tell how successful it is," he said.

He predicts there will be more Atticas as the prisoners realize the power they collectively have.

Concerning prison reform, he said people on the outside should start treating convicts as people. The demand for the elimination of the intermediate sentence is a crucial one, Ray said, because a prisoner has a right to know when he'll be released.

Another demand is more pay for work in prison industries which produces chairs, desks, clothing, etc. Prisoners make two cents an hour, according to Ray.

"In order to get decent soap and toothpaste at the prison store instead of the ranky old shit, baking soda, tooth powder or whatever that they issued us, we had to have money," he said.

Ray believes "prisons are failures. They don't rehabilitate anyone. They operate on the premise that they have all sorts of rehabilitation facilities and programs. But, in reality, they are very vicious institutions that kill the soul and everything a man is.

"Its going to take convicts, ex-convicts, families of convicts and sociologists to find the answer to reform prisons. It should be done by people who are affected by the prisons.

Women brutalized after court



Pat Wood a former woman prisoner and now a member of the prisoner's union.

By Donna Horowitz

When Pat Wood went to court a few days before Christmas last year her vagina and rectum were probed for drugs.

She said she was first ordered to strip and then squat. Her ears and throat were also peered into. She was then told to lie on a table and spread her legs for the internal check-up.

While she was waiting in line for her examination another woman inmate jokingly said "have a nice little Christmas goose."

Pat, 25, said she was called to court at least 40 times during her 13-month imprisonment, and always went through this routine before being rejailed.

Change

As secretary of the Prisoner's Union Local 9, Pat works with other ex-convicts and volunteers to change the American penal system.

The union is a newly-formed San Francisco group which eventually hopes to unionize prisoners so they will have collective bargaining rights.

"If I get busted for some jive charge, back I go," said Pat.

She has been out of jail since June and is serving a three year probation term. She reports to her probation officer monthly.

State property

"I belong to the state," she said. "I can't move without permission and I can't leave the state without permission."

Pat was imprisoned at the Women's

House of Detention in New York for eight and a half months and Santa Risa for four and a half months.

While in jail Pat said the only decision she could make was "when to shit." Everything else was decided for her.

Her cell toilet was handleless. She had to plead "deputy flush my toilet" whenever the deputies made the rounds.

Pregnant

When Pat entered prison she said she was eight months pregnant, but the prison doctor patted her stomach and diagnosed her as six and a half months pregnant.

She said she received no other maternal care and accuses the hospital of putting her baby girl, Abre Lee, in an experimental ward for the first five weeks of her life. Abre Lee is now 16 months old and is in the custody of Pat's parents.

Because Pat was charged with assault, robbery and arson her bail was set at \$50,000 and she was thrown in "the hole" with disciplinary offenders.

She described "the hole" as a square metal, windowless enclosure furnished with a metal slab-like bed topped with a two-inch mattress.

Solitary

Pat said she spent two months alone in a hole six feet by 10 feet.

During the other 11 months she was confined with a few other women in a larger hole.

"Jailhouse games keep you going," she said. She said the women "kept each other laughing all the time" so they wouldn't lose their sanity.

The women fought over the "butch broads" or "jail daddies," she said. The more masculine women were even called hes', she added.

Roaches

Pat said there was "absolutely nothing to do except wait for meals."

In New York where the conditions were worse than California, the library books were "full of roaches," she said.

Jail is more psychologically brutal to women than men because females are treated as "deviant girls" who can be reformed if they're taught to conform to society's image of women, she said.

The women have to mop floors, cook and mend the guard's uniforms, she said.

Body money

"Women learn from an early age that their body means money," she said. Even housewives are privately paid prostitutes, she added.

But there's no "such thing as women's lib in jail," she said.

Pat said she "walked around paranoid all the time" because she didn't know which rule she was breaking.

She said she couldn't sleep with her head hidden under the blanket and couldn't smoke with her feet on the bed.

She won't return—will she?

By Donna Horowitz

Susan Rucker doesn't plan to return to jail after she's released this month.

"It's too much hassle to go through to keep coming to jail all your life," said the 20-year old convicted of prostitution.

She is serving five months of a six-month sentence in the San Francisco City Jail. She'll be released Jan. 29, one month early, because of "good behavior."

Upon release Susan said she'll go to bakers' training school.

No training

She said she has had no vocational training in jail. She sorts women's light blue shift-like uniforms for the laundry one-half hour to an hour daily.

By doing this, another five days will be chopped off her sentence, but she's getting no money for her work.

"Prisons aren't for people. It's really lonely," she said. "It feels good to even ache because it's good to know you can still feel anything."

On the streets

When she was walking the streets, her best customers were older, white, businessmen from out-of-town, she said.

"They were the safest, cleanest and nicest to work with," said Susan.

She earned \$150 to \$200 a night at the most. Her price was \$15 to \$20 per customer.

Before turning to prostitution, she made \$200 a month working in a paperback book factory.

Too crowded

She said her prison cell is "too crowded." Nine other women share her room which is about 25 feet by 25 feet. One small window provides a limited view of the city.

"The food's bad." For breakfast Susan is served cold or hot cereal, a cup of milk and plain toast. She buys sugar from the commissary.

For dinner Susan said they are sometimes served a dish the women call "pigeon" because it has little pieces of meat which look like a small bird.

"The matrons are fair." She described some as "dykes," but they don't bother women who don't want their attentions, she said.

She said she is convinced her public defender (PD) and public defenders in general "don't counsel" what is best for their defendants.

She said her PD advised her to plead

guilty, which she did. But she "might as well not have a PD because they really don't fight for you...they just try and mess you over."

On the other side

On the other side of the bars is Lieutenant Rita Bernell, who has been deputy sheriff of the SF County jail for 11 years.

"We have a routine that would knock your eyes out," she said.

The jail currently houses 60 women and is a maximum security institution designed to hold felony offenders, federal prisoners, fugitives and state parole violators.

"We have never had a woman escape." The deputies even have a hard time getting out, she said.

There are constant checks and a cell-block patrol every 15 minutes.

"We must at all times see what they are doing because we cannot permit anyone to kill themselves." That's why each cell has a full-vision toilet, she said.

Lt. Bernell said the deputies must make sure "prisoners maintain an emotional balance to stay steady and adjusted."



"Prisoners" prepare for test

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By Marshall Schwartz

A psychological experiment at Stanford University on the dynamics of prison life was terminated a week early yesterday—because it had worked too well.

The five remaining "prisoners" (there were originally ten student volunteers) and 11 guards (also students) were sent home yesterday because some of them had adapted to their new roles too realistically.

Three students broke down completely, unable to cope with the mock-prison environment and had to be released earlier in the week.

Another prisoner was "paroled" before his scheduled release date because he broke out in a rash caused by his confinement.

The fifth prisoner was released for bureaucratic reasons.

One guard adopted a deep Southern drawl and harassed the inmates so much that both the prisoners

of the psychology building on campus), with no real brutality and no homosexuality like in real prisons, men can be broken so easily, what are real prisons doing to men," Zimbardo asked.

The experiment—which cost \$5000, including \$15-a-day salaries for prisoners and guards—was supposed to run for two weeks, beginning last Sunday. It was carried out as realistically as possible.

To begin with, Zimbardo got the assistance of the Palo Alto police. Two officers in a squad car spent last Sunday arresting—in classical fashion—all of the prisoners.

"We felt that if we just brought them here casually, they would still be acting as students, and it would take a lot of work to get them thinking as prisoners," Zimbardo said.

The squad cars rolled up to the "prisoners" home, and the officers announced they were arresting the students on charges such as armed robbery and assault

them, ate food sent or brought for the prisoners by relatives, and sometimes denied requests to go to the toilet for as long as eight hours.

"John Wayne," on the 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. shift (three shifts of guards worked around the clock) became an expert at this. (Now isn't that food good, boy? C'mon, I want to hear you sing out. 'M m m m m m good!' Sing!")

The prisoners wore white smocks (with their numbers on them), rubber sandals and a stocking on their heads (to simulate shaven skulls).

The situation was too realistic.

"I thought this would be a piece of cake, but it got to me—the whole thing—the total loss of privacy, the humiliation of being slaves to the guards, being in a small, small cell with two other guys 22 hours a day, and the complete loss of freedom," Rowney said.

"The fact that it was a simulation, the fact that it wasn't a real prison, made no difference," he added.

The realism got to everybody. "When the mothers came to visit on visiting day, and talked to me afterwards," Zimbardo said, they talked to me like I was really a prison superintendent."

"All of us running the experiment were upset," Zimbardo said. "I felt guilt about what was happening, and for the last two days I haven't been able to eat or sleep."

One important lesson learned from the experiment is that the "prisoners" have learned "how important freedom and liberty and fresh air really are," he added.

More significant, Zimbardo continued, is the lesson for prison reform.

"This shows that prisons can be reformed without costing the taxpayers a single dollar. We just have to train guards to treat prisoners as human beings. . . .

"The experience was so horrible it dehumanized all of the individuals—as with any condition that makes a man anonymous, a number rather than a human being."



Zimbardo interrogates "prisoner"

The ugly success of a prison test

and other guards began calling him "John Wayne."

And only one day after the experiment began, three of the prisoners started a revolt, barricading themselves in their cell.

The rebellion was broken up by guards in traditional prison fashion—by turning the prisoners against each other.

"It got me so down I didn't believe it," said Jim Rowney of Mountain View, who will be a freshman at the University of California at Berkeley this fall.

He was "paroled" Thursday after he "just couldn't take it and broke down."

"If someone had told me I would have acted this way before I went in, I wouldn't have believed him," he added.

"One thing we've learned from this is that any prison, even a good prison, is terrible," said Philip Zimbardo, the psychology professor who ran the experiment and acted as prison superintendent.

"We screened 70 students, and picked out the 20 or so most mature and emotionally stable ones, all without prison experience.

"We selected the guards and prisoners at random, so both groups would be exactly the same at the start. But look at what happened.

"If in our prison (several rooms in the basement

with a deadly weapon.

When asked about the experiment, the officers replied, "What experiment?" as they searched and handcuffed their charges and trundled them off to the police station, where they were booked and fingerprinted.

Blindfolded, the students were taken to the "Stanford County Prison," as numerous signs proclaimed, stripped and deloused—and forced to stand naked for a half-hour.

The realistic introduction worked, because all the subjects immediately assumed the role of prisoner.

The guards had been briefed the day before—told to "be hard and cold, harass them, create a feeling of frustration, fear, boredom, lack of individuality and lack of privacy," in the words of one student-guard.

The guards weren't allowed to use any physical violence, but verbal harassment soon became a highly practiced art.

Prisoners were referred to only by number, not name, and were forced to address each other that way. Several times a day—including regularly at 3 a.m. they were forced to "sound off" their numbers, and occasionally made to sing them.

Guards made them chant such things as "We love you, Mr. Correctional Officer," kept their mail from



Poems from the pen

Boku Kodama, Managing Editor

I am writing this letter to inform you of my response to your letter.

I also wish to enclose one of my poems for you to use if you feel it good enough.

I have been transferred to a prison located far from any large city. I can't see my family or friends here.

Well I shall close at this time and hope to hear from you again soon.

The address here is:

James B. Daniels

Box A-92727

Jamestown, Calif. 95327

Anyone wishing to write to me, please write to the address above. And I shall respond, as I always do.

The following letter was written to Professor Philip Zimbardo from a prisoner who cannot be identified.

"I was recently released from 'solitary confinement' after being held there for 37 months. A silent system was imposed upon me and to even 'whisper' to the man in the next cell resulted in being beaten by guards, sprayed with chemical mace, black-jacked, stomped, and thrown into a 'strip-cell' naked to sleep on a concrete floor without bedding, covering, wash basin, or even a toilet. The floor served as toilet and bed, and even there the 'silent system' was enforced. To let a 'moan' escape your lips because of the pain and discomfort...resulted in another beating. I spent not days, but months there in solitary... I have filed every writ possible against the administrative acts of brutality. The State Courts have all denied the petitions because of my refusal to let the 'things die down' and 'forget' all that happened during my 37 months in solitary."

"I am the most hated prisoner in ----- prison, and called a 'hard-core incorrigible.'"

"Professor Zimbardo, maybe I am an incorrigible, but if true, it's because I would rather die than to accept being treated less than a human being. I have never complained of my prison sentence as being unjustified except through legal means of appeals. I have never put a knife on a guard's throat and demanded my release. No, I'm not rehabilitated. It's just that I no longer think of becoming wealthy by stealing. I now only think of 'killing.' Killing those who have beaten me and treated me as if I were a dog. I hope and pray for the sake of my own soul and future life of freedom, that I am able to overcome the bitterness and hatred which eats daily at my soul, but I know to overcome it will not be easy."

PRISON MEAT

To sit at the table, abhor,
feast on the salad, gore,
dine on the soup, disruption,
sip at the wine, construction,
all these delicacies here.

To eat the meat, intrusion,
taste the bread, repair,
surrounded by tables of sadness,
covered with grief, madness,
why look, you see it's all there.

Ice cream made of sorrow,
cover with hearts galore,
served in a bowl of confusion,
what more could I ask for?

Cake iced with death,
milk drunk from a cup of despair,
need you want more.

This meal is served every day,
each time in a different way,
to the convicts in prison always,
I know for I eat every day.

- James B. Daniels 92727

Managing Editor
 I am writing this letter to inform you of my new address
 to continue our correspondence with each other.
 I enclose one of my poems so that you may
 have a good end.
 I am transferred to the Conservation Center, which is
 a large town or city. I can in all sincerity say
 that I shall hear from you
 at this time and hope that I shall hear from you

And I shall be more than happy
 to respond, as I have none.

Yours in the light
 James B. Daniels

PRISON EAST

at the table, abhor,
 on the saloon, gore,
 on the south, disruption,
 the wine, construction,
 these delicate here.

at the meat, intrusion,
 the bread, repair,
 and by, tables of sadness,
 and with, of madness;
 look, you, it's all there.

team made, sorrow,
 with heart, galore,
 in a bowl, confusion,
 more could, ask for?

iced with, death with every bite,
 drunk from, dup of disillusion,
 you want, ore.

meal is served every day,
 time in a different way,
 convicts, son always.
 w for I eat every day.

James B. Daniels A-92727

LOST

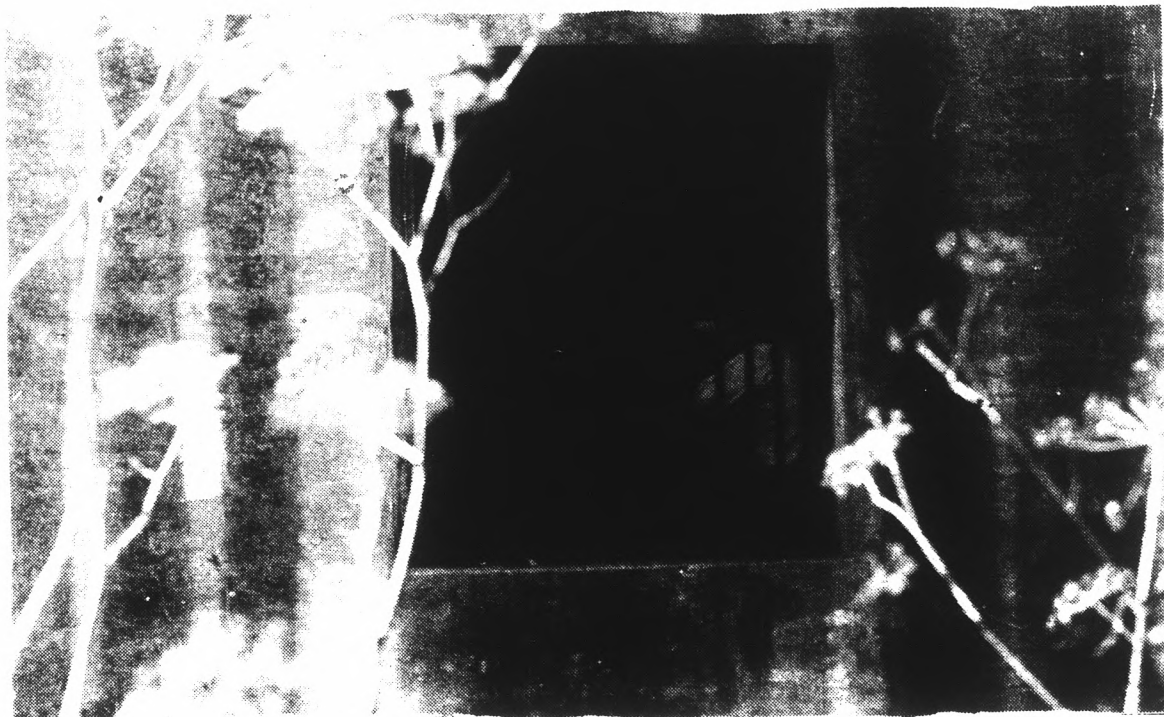
I am a Black through and true,
 lost of my heritage are my blues,
 my mind in a constant whirl,
 attempting to survive in this world.

Here I sit behind tall bleak walls,
 lost, but fighting for a cause,
 a victim of this society,
 lost in the penitentiary.

Sitting here day by day,
 seeing my life waste away,
 here in this world of the lost,
 no one longer gives me a thought.

Lost to the world outside,
 dehumanized, subjected to geonocide,
 I a man ostracized,
 trapped in this web and victimized.
 Striving to surpass this retrogradation,
 lost in a world of dejection and reflection,
 wondering when that day will be
 that I can again be free; or is this my destiny?
 Lost in the penitentiary.

James B. Daniels A-92727



TIME

Tick-tock, tick-tock a clock on the wall,
 tick tocks echoes through the halls.
 Swish-swish, swish-swish, the pendulum swings,
 swish-swish to hear a voice screams.

Time, the hands on a clock,
 Time, a man breaking some rocks,
 Time, a weight of chains,
 Time, a cell door clanks.

Tick-tock, tick-tock, to hear a man cry,
 swish-swish, swish-swish to hear another sigh.
 Time behind tall thick walls,
 time enough to make any man bawl.

Here in the penitentiary,
 there's plenty of time, none of it free,
 To work from dawn to dusk,
 all because of some man's lust.

We sit and think of what we've done,
 many are the thoughts, why don't I run.
 Looking up into the sun,
 we see the man with his gun,
 we see the birds flying by,
 and ask the question why can't I?

Time an unmeasurable fact,
 even we often lose track,
 never fast nor slow,
 time is always on the go.

Time a fearful fact,
 time how would you react?
 No word from those outside,
 do you believe that you could survive?

—James B. Daniels A-92727

Lawyer criticizes Authority

By Tom Barrington

As the California convict starts prison life, he finds many new forces now exert control over his every move. One agency has ultimate control over his life in prison and on parole.

The agency is the Adult Authority. It is under attack from people for reform on all sides of the state's political forum.

A basic criticism of the Adult Authority, according to a local lawyer, is that it allows no legal counsel to the prisoner during his appearances before the panel reviewing the case. Also, sometimes the Authority members and representatives who have a background in law enforcement review cases involving them in a conflict of interest.

Denial

An Adult Authority spokesman replied to these criticisms:

"These things should not be referred to the Adult Authority at all.

"The Authority operates under a very stringent penal code enacted by the legislature as the will of the people. If the people want a lawyer allowed at panels, they should have the legislature so prescribe.

"If the people want the background requirements of members and representatives changed, then they should encourage the legislature to do so."

Power

The Adult Authority, established in 1944 to better administer the indeterminate sentence law, fixes terms, grants paroles, imprisons parole violators, and restores civil rights.

It consists of eight governor-appointed members and eleven civil service representatives. One of the members is black; another Chicano.

Depending upon the type of case it is handling, decisions are made by a minimum of one member and one representative to a maximum of all eight members, in capital cases.

Process

Parole supervisor Doug Peterson explained the process of the Adult Authority:

Depending on the convict's record, his attitude and behavior in prison, he will serve the minimum or the maximum sentence, or something in between, Peterson said.

"Usually, unless the person is in for a long minimum, the convict appears before the Adult Authority panel at his assigned institution within the first year of his sentence," he said.

Pressure

"Because of reform pressure, the authority is now generally assigning a parole date after this first appearance," he added.

"If a person shows a willingness to set up a program of rehabilitation for himself, he can usually be out on parole before he has served his minimum.

"Moreover, he has an excellent chance of getting a job; better in fact than the standard unemployed person because there are more agencies working in the convicts' behalf."

About 60 to 90 days before the release of an individual, he or she is sent to the work-furlough center maintained at Chino or San Quentin, and allowed to go out on passes to find a job, the supervisor explained.

Jobs

The Adult Authority generally will not allow a prisoner to be released on parole without a job.

"Of course, if the convict serves all his required time in the joint, there is no possibility of requiring him to have a job."

When the Adult Authority releases a person to parole they restore certain civil rights.

"He is allowed to purchase food, transportation, clothing, household furnishings and such housing as is necessary to maintain himself and keep his employment. He cannot buy anything on credit, though, without the written permission of the parole agent," said Peterson.

Rights

"He is also allowed his rights relating to laws on employment, such as workman's compensation and social security."

The conditions of parole are simple, Peterson said.

The parolee must report to his parole agent and keep him continuously informed of his whereabouts. He cannot leave the state without the officer's written permission.

The prisoner must obey all laws, not go near firearms or drugs and not engage in violent, assaultive behavior.

The released prisoner might also be required to go to a clinic, abstain from alcohol, and stay away from a former victim, Peterson said.

Violation

"If he violates a condition of parole in a serious manner, he is returned to prison and his sentence is automatically set at the maximum, subject to review and refixing of release date by the Adult Authority."

If the individual causes trouble in prison, has a bad or long record, or a bad attitude, he can be made to serve out his entire maximum in prison.

If he commits a crime or tries to escape, he can be made to serve longer than his maximum.

"The Adult Authority's concern," according to Peterson, "is not with justice. That was the concern of the court. It is, rather, with the ability of the convict to desire to rehabilitate himself, and whether or not the per-

son is a danger to society. Some cons just won't go straight and should be kept in prison."

Most of the work of compiling information on the convict and providing recommendations to the Adult Authority is done by staff representatives. They are also employed members of the Department of Corrections, such as counselors and staff psychiatrists.

Tests

"When a convict goes to prison," said Peterson, "he is first sent to one of two reception guidance centers located at Chino in the south and Vacaville in the north.

"Here he is given a battery of tests to find out what his needs are, and to help the convict better develop a program of rehabilitation.

Information is compiled into a cumulative case summary. The summary, along with the counselor's reports of the inmate's adjustment and attitude, goes to the panel that reviews the inmate's case.

"From this type of information the Adult Authority makes its decisions," said Peterson.

Crime and Punishment; a myth?

By Tom Barrington

The condition of crime and punishment in our country is generally the same as the condition of everything else here and in the world.

It is a condition of myth.

We catch a murderer or a thief and put him in prison to rehabilitate him to live a clean, decent, moral life in the greatest, most clean, decent, moral country in the world.

That's the myth.

The reality is that he is merely being punished because he was caught. Thus, he is an inferior criminal in a nation of largely unrehabilitated thieves and murderers whose crimes go generally unpunished.

If you don't think so, ask any foreigner. Even the most pro-American of them will tell you our country is much more corrupt than we think.

Historically, our heritage has been, in reality, a great land theft accompanied by a mass execution of most of the previous inhabitants, all done in the name of Manifest Destiny.

And these things still continue today.

Witness the recent Lockheed fiasco. We loaned Lockheed over \$200,000 after it had compiled a 15-year record of cheating the airlines and the U. S. and West German air forces.

The Electra aircraft had to be grounded three times after two big murderous crashes due to faulty equipment.

The F-104 Starfighter has been a death trap for any American or West German pilot who has flown it with numerous crashes and groundings.

And most recently, the CSA Galaxy has been the subject of a continuing controversy.

Our state legislators and politicians continue to award themselves higher salaries, while accomplishing less in the state houses other than raising our taxes.

Looking at this, it doesn't take the nabbed thief long to realize that it's all a game.

Society wants the thief to become a part of the silent dummy majority that is the meek victim of the thieves.

The conditions in the prisons are not going to bring about a revolution in this country.

They should, though, be a subject of humanitarian concern. After all, they are just the poor bastards that have been caught. And they know that this talk of greatness is just a lot of bull.

There has yet to be a truly great nation on earth, and one can only come about when people stop believing in myths, and start acting on reality.

'Big house' to become a peaceful reform camp?

by Mike Lucas

While violence and murder plague state prisons, officials are looking forward to the day when the "Big House" becomes a peaceful reform camp out in the country.

Department of Corrections spokesman Phil Guthrie foresees a system of small, rural rehabilitation farms to replace what the terms the "giant dehumanizing machines" the state runs today.

Recently high-level reforms have reduced the prison population and helped in cutting the recidivism rate, Guthrie says, and California is taking the lead in offering imprisoned convicts such innovations as a work furlough program, conjugal family visits and three-day passes. But many knotty problems remain, Guthrie admits.

"The whole system has changed a lot in the last five years," said Guthrie. of the \$106 million per year prison agency. "It's fantastic...amazing."

Less cons

California's inmate population has dipped from a peak of 28,600 three years ago to a current level of 20,500. The recidivism rate has dropped from 47 per cent in 1962-64 to 30 per cent in 1968-70. The rate of convicts who are returned after new felony convictions dropped during the same periods from 20 to 11 per cent.

One of key reforms, according to Guthrie, has been the virtual elimination of the Parole Board's use of the indeterminate sentence. Under that practice, convicts were cast adrift in a hopeless sea of penal reform without a release date to look forward to.

Guthrie cited as an example a convicted robber sentenced to a five-year to life prison term. He would be eligible for parole under the law after serving 20 months. But the parole board made it a policy never to release a convicted robber after only a minimum term.

"A lot of guys got the feeling they were in limbo," Guthrie said.

The Parole Board is now assigning release dates for nearly all new inmates.

Another big reform, the work furlough program, is now in its seventh year of preparing convicts for outside life. Some 1,500 inmates who are within five months of release are selected each year for outside jobs. They re-

turn after work to spend nights and weekends behind bars.

An average of five per cent of furlough workers take advantage of their brief freedom by taking flight and Guthrie admits the temptations of the outside world are too much for some cons.

California was the first state in the union to allow prisoners to leave custody on three-day passes in a plan that works much the same as it does for Army recruits.

The prisoners spend the time with their families, talking to prospective employers and sometimes "they even go out for a few beers," said Guthrie.

After a year, the pilot program appears to be a success, said Guthrie. Only two per cent of those released on a total of 24,000 such passes in 1971 attempted to escape.

The family visits were allowed first at Tehachapi in mid-1968. Aimed more at re-adjusting an inmate to rejoin his family than reducing homosexual tensions, it has since been instituted at Chino, San Luis Obispo, Soledad, Deuel Vocational Institute at Tracy, Sierra Conservation Center at Jamestown, Corona and the California Institute for Women and San Quentin.

Brothers, sisters, parents and children join inmates as well as wives.

By reducing the population behind bars, the state has eased a good deal of pressures of overcrowding. Double occupant cells are now the exception rather than the rule.

The prison population was reduced by shifting a large share of the burden of rehabilitation to the state's corps

of 900 parole agents, who keep tabs on some 22,000 inmates for the balance of their terms. Guthrie notes the parole officers do everything from employment and family counseling to undercover and surveillance work.

But since the state weeded out many convicted of property offenses—check forgers, burglars, addicts and the like—most of those remaining are hard-core convicts doing time for violent, anti-social acts, said Guthrie.

"The good cons were the property offenders," observed Guthrie. "They followed rules, set a good atmosphere and were a traditional stabilizing effect."

The phasing out of the non-violent cons, he believes, is a major contributing factor to the recent wave of highly publicized violence.

In fulfilling its rehabilitative role, the prison system performs a thorough job in remedial education, said Guthrie. He added prisons don't easily deal with psychiatric problems because of a shortage of psychiatric staff in most prisons.

But all the facilities offer classes ranging from the primary school to junior college and a staff of 175 vocational instructors trains inmates in 43 skills ranging from welding to deep sea diving, he said.

The trend of the future clearly appears to be steering away from the large industrial prisons such as San Quentin.

The prison of tomorrow will be much like a facility the state plans to open at San Luis Obispo this spring. Planted in a relaxed rural setting, it will have a pair of 600-man housing units. The state has authorized \$1 million to staff it with a full range of psychiatric custodial workers.

Future prisons

Tomorrow's prisons will make more extensive use of such programs as bridge and speech clubs in which convicts and citizens from the surrounding communities can get together in a relaxed social atmosphere, added Guthrie.

Such a modern facility is planned on a site near San Diego, but with a proposed \$50 million price tag, the state hasn't even gotten around to estimating a completion date yet.

For now, the Department of Corrections must contend with admittedly antiquated facilities, a shortage of psychiatric and counseling workers and a growing uproar of public sentiment calling for reform of the whole system.



Alcatraz, one of the last of the 'big houses.'

photo by Kevin Tobin

By Eric Berg

Pat Holloran's nine-year-old sister once asked her what she did in prison. "Nothing," replied Pat, then an inmate at Marin County Jail.

"Nothing?" said the little girl, having difficulty comprehending what it was like to do nothing. She paused. "Does 'nothing' mean you can't go to the bathroom?"

Nothing is a term used by many of California's 23,000 men and women prisoners.

Nothing is a term used to describe the life their families and friends lead.

Connections

Pat and more than 500 others have turned that nothing into something. It's called Connections.

"We essentially want to organize prison families to help themselves," said Cathy Kornblit, 24, one of three women who founded the organization.

Photo by Boku Kodama



Connections tries to end the caged loneliness.

'Connections'-turns nothing to something

Connections was started about three years ago when two prison wives asked Cathy, whose old man was jailed for draft resistance, to help them start an organization. They wanted to help families endure the mental and social hardships of having a loved one in prison.

Glide's basement

Starting in the basement of Glide Memorial Church, Connections is now at the corner of 16th Street and Guerrero.

Donations and bake sales pay the rent and expenses of the new office, a huge, old white room with four small pillars in the middle. Political posters dot the walls.

At donated office desks five women busily answer phones and type letters. Two young children get glasses of water for their mothers from the adjoining kitchen.

Problems

Pat sits at the head desk. She has been with Connections since last January and is now much in demand as a speaker.

"Many women want to know what to tell their landlord, boss and kids now that their old man is in the joint. They need help with their problems. That's why we're here," Pat explained.

Connections is staffed by 20 volunteers. All of whom have men in prison. They help other women in similar situations find new jobs and housing, and arrange transportation to penitentiaries on visiting days.

Prisons

A red sandwich board listing twelve prisons stands next to Pat's desk. Each listing has a hook with a dangling stack of cards telling names of families who have people imprisoned there.

This is the transportation board. Connections provides a state-wide carpool service for those who can't afford to take a bus.

"It costs \$9 roundtrip to take a bus to San Quentin," said Pat. "Many women, especially those with children, can't afford this."

Volunteer drivers make regular weekend trips to San Quentin, Vacaville, Susanville, San Bruno, Folsom and Soledad. Other prisons are visited irregularly.

Nikki Ojeda, 32, organizes rides to Soledad. She was recently laid off her job and now works as a full-time staff member.

"I joined Connections because I needed something to do. The service we provide is fantastic when you consider prison families have hell to pay," Nikki said.

Locate

Connections has a mailing list of more than 2,000 families. Often inmates will write asking them to locate their loved ones.

Bonnie Brewster, a woman in her early forties, has a fiancé in San Quentin. She said she came to Connections needing moral support, someone to talk to.

She is now a part-time staffer and answers letters from lonely inmates. This is a difficult and delicate task.

She produced a long letter illustrated with hand-drawn flowers.

"Love letter"

"Look at this. This is the second letter, and he's already fallen in love with me!" Bonnie said sadly.

Most inmates are so lonely the slightest bit of written kindness from a woman produces instant love, sight unseen, she said.

A sign on wall lists the office rules:

No dope.
No sex.
No guns.
No alcohol.
No bullshit.
i.e. no counter-revolutionary activities in here.

Connections is not political. It does not even advocate prison reform.

Both Pat and Cathy are openly active in politics. Bonnie and Nikki are quiet and express few political thoughts. All four hate prisons and would like to see

No dope.

No sex.

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i.e. no counter-revolutionary activities in here

them abolished

There is no such thing as prison reform," Pat believes. "California's penal system is the state's second largest industry. There's too much money involved. Do you think officials will do away with the system?"

No rights

To the women at Connections, prison reform means little other than arbitrary privileges that can be given and taken away. No human rights.

Cathy does not believe rehabilitation is the answer either. "I don't want anyone messing with the heads of those I love. Most of the people in prison are poor and outspoken. How are you going to rehabilitate that?"

But Pat says: "It's up to the community to meet its needs. You'll have to change the whole structure. This means complete social overthrow."

Cathy worries about the present public interest in prisons and Connections.

"We have to move ahead. This sudden prison interest is faddism. We as friends and families must step ahead to educate the public about prisons and prison conditions."

From prison to freedom - Rebound makes it easier

By Joye Ogradowski

The transition from a life of confinement to freedom is usually difficult. Rebound attempts to make this process easier.

"The people come mostly from state penitentiaries and state narcotic treatment centers," said George Woods, president of Rebound.

"Criteria for admission to SF State under the program includes being a California state prison parolee, recently released, or a county jail releasee. The major priority is initiative, interest and ability of each applicant."

Ex-Convicts are admitted to SF State in conjunction with the college's requirements for admission. Between 10 and 12 students are admitted each semester.

There must be evidence that the student can do college work and pass the ACT test.

A series of six explanatory letters are mailed to prisoners who express interest in the program.

According to Steven Ainsworth, secretary-treasurer, "the letters all lead up to the final letter of acceptance. By the time they get the last form letter, everything for entrance has been taken care of."

"It's a self-help thing."

Originally, letters were sent to all of the prisons and would be published in the prison newspapers.

"Word of mouth seems to keep it going now," said John Irwin, associate

professor of sociology and advisor of Rebound.

"We have not tried to systematically encourage the prison officials to make sure that the information gets out because we get so many responses. They come from all over, maybe a heavier number coming from San Quentin and Soledad."

Irwin said he believes that most ex-convict students choose behavioral sciences as their course of study, though they may take whatever classes they want.

"Something in their backgrounds makes them curious of behavior and their own behavior."

"They have considerable experience that serves them, helps them in relating to what is being taught."

Don Garrity, vice president of academic affairs and one time criminology teacher, Charles Stone, dean of admissions, and Irwin organized Rebound in 1967. Since then "we have gotten a lot of guys in school and a few are working on degrees," said Irwin.

"So far, it seems like a majority are staying in school. Women seem to disappear, though."

"There are about 8-9 men in the system to every woman; they tend to follow other pursuits."

"Women in the system are largely from the lower class and I guess they aren't oriented toward a college career." The program is a "success" and gives

the students more than just an education.

"It's great. It is definitely an opportunity to have a different life style than what I had before," Ainsworth said.

"My original plans were to attend an art institute. When I found out that financial aid and such were not available, I turned to Rebound."

"I felt the need to enlighten myself and felt the need to find a place in our society where I could function to my highest abilities and college seemed to offer this."

Ainsworth plans to work toward his teaching credential in the art field. He would like to put his knowledge to work in a prison or a ghetto because "I would like to see people like me get the chance I had."

The Rebound students have offered their services as speakers for classes on campus, at high schools and other colleges. They speak on the penal system and their versions of what changes, if any, should be made.

Ainsworth has been the subject of "many papers that have been turned into classes, so not only am I helping myself, but I am helping others too."

There are presently 55 students in the Rebound program: on campus and 600 state-wide.

Some of these people, said Ainsworth, do not have enough money.

"We are in contact with Bruce Angell, activities advisor for the Associated

Photo by Ramiro Cuadra



John Irwin

Students, about the availability of funds."

San Jose State started a similar program about the same time that San Francisco did. Cal State at Long Beach and Cal State at Los Angeles are also working with ex-convicts.

"We have tried to get some schools around here involved, like Hayward State. We are still trying with them," said Irwin.

Keldgord Report advocates massive reform

By Eugene Gibson

Two state-conducted studies on California prison reform call for correctional efforts to change from the state level to the community level.

The first report, a four-volume study by the California Board of Corrections, was conducted at the request of Gov. Reagan. Its most important recommendation was to reduce criminal justice from the state level to the local or county level.

The report also recommends using smaller correctional facilities closer to the communities from which the inmates were convicted. More individualized treatment and educational and vocational training is stressed.

The Board of Corrections condemns the lack of psychoanalytic treatment and classification for prisoners, and recommends more interaction between prisoners and the community.

Hopefully, increased interaction would ease the transition back into society, the board declared. Easier transitions would enable the inmates to possess a meaningful job and personal relationships with those on the outside.

At present, there are limited work furlough programs in state institutions, in which privileged inmates may work at part-time jobs on the outside and return to jail at night.

When a prisoner is released, he is given his clothing and \$40 to start a new life, or return to his old.

The Keldgord Report was prepared by 57 criminologists and penologists headed by Robert Keldgord, criminologist and member of the Bay Area Social Planning Council. They are more dramatic and radical in their 224 recommendations than was the state corrections board.

The Keldgord report recommends the bulk of the correctional effort be transferred to the community level, with an additional step of penalizing the communities for failure to deal with a criminal and sending him to a state institution.

Under the report's proposed plan, the state would pay 60 percent of the cost of running local "open" institutions from which offenders could have daily contact with schools, jobs, and other local activities.

The county would pay 60 per cent of the cost of running "closed" institutions, with the local communities paying the remaining 40 per cent.

This would allow the prisoner a high degree of interaction with the community, and a maximum sentence of six months.

Under the proposal, a county would be required to pay 75 per cent for the incarceration of an individual it referred to a state institution. The report estimates it would cost counties \$10,300 for each man or woman sent to prison.

The Keldgord Report recommended a reduction of the median time served by California prison inmates from 36 months to 24 months.

It also called for the modification or abolition of the indeterminate sentence and the Adult Authority.

Abandonment of the state's two oldest prisons, San Quentin and Folsom, is also recommended by the Keldgord Report.

The following is a rewrite of an in-depth report on the prisons of the world conducted by the Los Angeles Times.

Data was gathered through interviews with former prisoners and prison officials conducted by the Times correspondents in all parts of the world, and published on September 28, 1971.

Prisons in other lands

By Roger Burr

What of the prisons of other nations? What conditions do persons who are incarcerated in other nations find behind prison walls?

There are similarities and differences in prisons in every country. All prisons use solitary confinement as a tool of discipline, but other tools vary.

In Mexico, prisoners are punished by taking away their conjugal visits; in Russia, according to published reports, they are punished by taking away their food.

The prisoner differs from one country to the next, as do social problems, such as racism.

A,B,C,D

In Britain, prisoners are divided into four classes: A, B, C, D.

Class A prisoners, whose escape may be dangerous to the state, are sent to places like Parkhurst or Albany, the top security prisons on the Isle of Wight.

There prisoners find hostile guards, discrimination and victimization.

One prisoner said prisoners slowly but surely become vegetables.

A and B class prisoners are allowed a half-hour visit every two months, and can be kept in solitary confinement for up to four weeks.

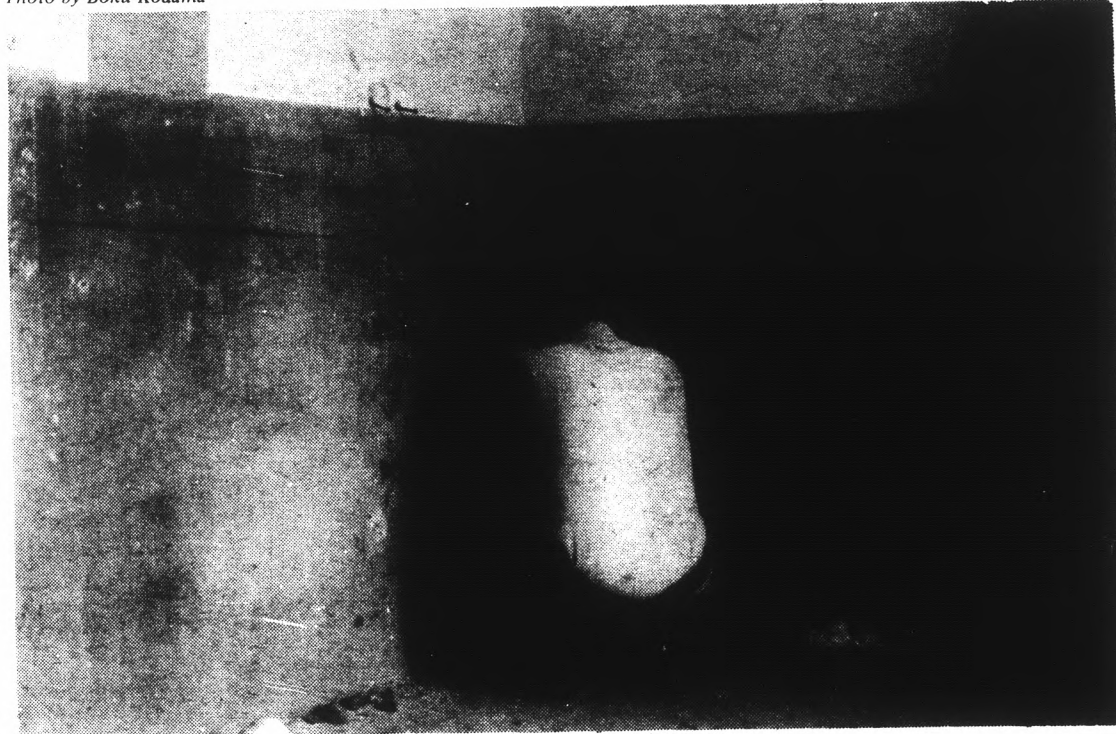
Billy clubs

Class C and D prisoners fare better. Guards mingle with prisoners, armed only with billy clubs hidden under their uniform. A man can get a third of his sentence reduced for good behavior.

There are no state prisons as such in Canada. All persons convicted of a sentence of more than two years go to a nationally-run institution.

There are 32 of these institutions. Eight of them are maximum security prisons. The largest contains

Photo by Boku Kodama



All prisons use solitary confinement as a tool of discipline.

500 inmates, the smallest 75.

Prisoners can sit with the visitors, touch them, even kiss. There is a guard on duty in the visiting room, but he isn't supposed to monitor conversation.

French prisons, according to French penology, "are places of incarceration, not rehabilitation."

Terms average three to four years, and there is no attempt at rehabilitation. Devil's Island, the infamous maximum security prison in South America, was closed in 1953. It was the last French prison reform.

Still, recidivism is rare in France, possibly due to poor living conditions in the prisons.

In Germany, penology is a carefully regulated science, with the accent on reform.

Prisons are not crowded, and their population is dropping.

Efforts are made to incarcerate a man, not where he was arrested, but near his home so he can be close to his family and community he will someday rejoin.

Hard-core

There are no hard-core prisoners or maximum security facilities in Italian prisons.

Everything is shared, guards and prisoners alike are polite, according to an American psychologist confined to Rome's Resina Coeli Prison.

All wastes end up in two buckets which get emptied twice a day. Each prisoner gets a hot shower once a week.

Israel has two types of prisoners, Israeli criminals and 528 Arab prisoners. Both, according to prisoners themselves are treated fairly, and if trusted, may be allowed to go home on a pass.

There is little violence in Israeli prisons, but on one occasion Gaza Arabs brawled, not with Israelis, but with Fatah guerillas from Palestine.

The Israeli guard's lot is hardly better than that of the prisoner.

They make 10 per cent less than the average Israeli, and prisons are understaffed.

Lawns and rose bushes surround the dormitories within the wall of the 81 acre Fuchu Prison in Tokyo, Japan.

Prisoners hurry to work just as workers in other parts of the city.

Guards are highly educated. Prisoners call them "Oyaji-San," an informal version of "father."

Still, recidivism is high in Japan, although most repeat offenders are members of the underworld or mentally incapable of finding and holding a job in the outside world.

Corruption is rampant in most of Mexico's prisons.

A prisoner with money can acquire weapons, women, liquor and narcotics, said David Kaplan, a New Yorker serving 28 years in Mexico's Marta Acptitla Prison.

The poor prisoner lives in a lightless earth-floor cell.

No revolts

There are no revolts, no rehabilitation, and no work programs in Mexico's prisons.

Mexico's only true maximum security prison is on the Isla Maria, 70 miles west of Tepic in the Pacific Ocean. Here, sharks patrol the off-shore waters.

Russia is believed to have the world's largest prison population.

Starvation is the tool used to enforce discipline.

For a lump of sugar men turn informers, betraying their fellow inmates.

Guards patrol the prison grounds with machine guns and dogs.

Who knows which system of penology is best? Methods of penology successful in some nations may fail completely in others.

By Jim Golfos

In San Francisco the youths who end up on the wrong side of the law end up at Youth Guidance Center, home for the San Francisco Juvenile Court and detention facilities.

Located on Woodside Avenue near the Laguna Honda Convalescent Home, the Center couldn't be a more depressing structure, or more inaccessible for parents who come from the ghetto areas. They usually depend on the city's bus system, and the service is poor. It is not uncommon, however, to see a cab letting out a family near the front entrance.

"Whenever you have a building dictating programs, you're in trouble," said Robert Foote, Director of the Center. "After 10 years, the buildings become obsolete."

Cost for a new Youth Guidance Center in San Francisco has been estimated at around \$20 million.

"Any civil servant has to recognize budget limits," said Foote. "But I am surprised at voters' priorities. I was taught as a boy to always vote for recreation and education."

"If there was a choice between Apollo and education—they'd vote for education," he said.

Operations center

Today, Youth Guidance Center, in addition to the Juvenile Court and detention facilities, houses the operations center for the probation department, juvenile hall, ranch schools and dependent children care.

The year 1970, was one of new beginnings for the Center. After a nation-wide recruitment for a new administrator, Joseph J. Botka became the new Chief Probation Officer.

Ever since then, change has become the big word at the Center.

For the first time in its 22 years, the Center has less than its rated capacity of 219 detainees. At present there are 120 detainees. Seventy-five are boys, 25 are girls, and 20 are dependent children.

A controversy in December, '71 developed over a 17-year-old girl who was scalded by another girl with boiling water. After emergency treatment at the General Hospital, the burned girl was sent back to the Center and placed in the same cottage with the same girls. With second degree burns over most of the right side of her body, infection was an imminent danger.

It was a simple case of misunderstanding, according to Robert Foote. "Apparently, everyone decided she could be treated satisfactorily at our dispensary," he said.

Cases like this are now rare at the Center.

Juvenile system obsolete--- needs reform

Photos by Jim Baldocchi

"We have been through a period of strong criticism by the community," Foote said. "Some of it was true, some untrue. But we've also been through a period of self examination."

Publicity about conditions within the Center has been lacking for a long time, primarily to protect the youths from the stigma of jail.

Drab

The layout and structure of Youth Guidance Center speaks for itself.

The drab green administrative building and adjoining parking lot are all of the institution visible from the much-travelled Portola Boulevard.

The detention facilities, which cannot be seen from the road are surrounded by a 10-foot fence topped with barbed wire. The warning against attempting a bust is visible from anywhere in the Center.

The boys and girls have segregated gyms. For outdoor exercise there are empty courtyards and volleyball courts.

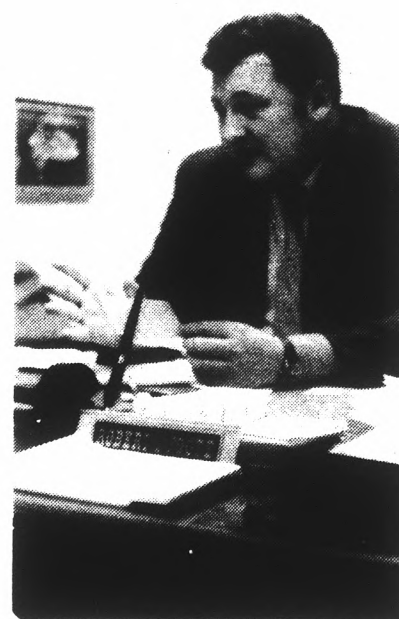
Because the weather is usually grey and cold, the youths spend most of their time indoors.

A chapel is in the middle of the complex and at the very rear of the Center is "isolation row."

The detention units are connected by long and curving Candlestick Park-type corridor. It has been years since the walls and ceilings were painted. The original colors have faded into a dreary brownish-yellow. All the floors are concrete.

Doors locked

Inside all doors are locked. Nowhere is there a uniformed guard, counselor, or teacher.



Robert Foote

"I point to that with particular pride," said Foote. "We want to detoxify the uniform. The kids see a uniform and that's it. The matter is settled in their minds."

To alleviate the situation, Foote said "Once a week, the staff, Seven Step Foundation, a uniformed officer, an ex-felon, and a teacher sit down and talk with kids. To see them sitting down and agreeing is good."

A typical recreation area inside the units includes a ping-pong table, a fireplace with a brick mantel, some books and magazines, a TV, and some chairs.

The classrooms are small by today's standards, yet they retain the intimacy of the little red-brick schoolhouse.

Time for play

After being in their rooms (the youths call them cells) most of the time, they have the time off to play and associate with others.

One youth tried to coax me into watching him sneak a smoke while in his cell. Another wanted to show me how good he was at ping-pong. But most just wanted to know why they found themselves wearing blue jeans and the white number-stamped T-shirt.

"Just like in the movies...man," said one of the youths.

Relating his 18 years' experience working in juvenile detention centers, Foote said, "Kids need heroes, and we are sadly lacking in that. They watch TV and identify with poor heroes."



Kids enjoy an evening of television

"Many times, delinquent boys have several characteristics of both the criminal and police officer inside them," he said. "They are highly imaginative, daring, and prone to adventure."

'Our fault'

"The social delinquent is part our fault," he said. "We tell boys and girls if you get a high school diploma, you'll get a job. We give them a diploma, and they can't read. We've betrayed their happiness."

"If he's behind in the second grade," he said, "the problem becomes geometric each year. Then they have tremendous feelings of failure and guilt. Instead, we need to foster a feeling—I've tried my best."

Perhaps equally important is the process a youth goes through while at "Juvey" (the nickname famil-



Jane Cassidy

iar to all who have been there).

"First, a juvenile hall has no intake control," Foote said. "Only screening. We are a legal agency, so we start from a legal basis. We are bound to legal form, budgets, and obligated to protect the community. That takes some discipline, and it can bother you."

"Second, a juvenile is considered a menace to himself and the community," he said.

Held 15 days

"A youngster is brought here and held in detention for 15 days," he said. "However, what happens in juvenile hall should be looked on as it reflects the larger problem in the community."

"Some kids," he said, "have to be locked up, if for no protection other than their own. We have a certain amount of violence here. But let me get this straight. We're not zoo keepers or street sweepers. We deal with other people's children."

"Today," he continued, "we don't have kids here for truancy. They are here basically because of social problems. To give you some idea, 52 out of 58 boys are here for the equivalent of felonies."

Crime report

The President's Crime Commission noted "Self-report studies reveal that perhaps 90 per cent of all young people have committed at least one act for which they could have been brought to juvenile court."

Writer Warren Boroson, in his article "In Defense of Adolescents" said, "As adults everywhere see it, the typical addled-escant has acne, V.D., and a couple of illegitimate children; he's addicted to pot, barbaric music, erotic dancing, and stealing people's automobiles; he's lazy, irresponsible, and—the ultimate offense—disrespectful to his elders."

Whatever the reasons or the philosophies, a dramatic change has taken place within the legal system that has shaken the juvenile courts at their foundations.

In March 1970 the U.S. Supreme Court further

held that a preponderance of evidence was not a sufficient standard of proof in sustaining a delinquency petition, and that minors must be judged like adults by the standard of proof based on evidence of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Complicated

"With the Supreme Court stating the same standards for minors as adults, the whole process of handling juveniles is more complicated," said Jane Cassidy, Assistant Chief Probation Officer at the Center.

"Now it's a very formal proceeding," said Ms. Cassidy. "The attorneys are assigned to the court, not the persons. The child doesn't speak. The system doesn't get to know him as a person."

Maybe the adversary system is the only way," she said. But it is incongruous to me to make a juvenile court like an adult court. It failed for a long time. The Court didn't realize all the ramifications."

Does it provide for overall justice?

"Yes," Cassidy said. "I think the lawyers and social workers think so. It reduces the severity of sentences by jacking for lesser charges, lesser dispositions. You just don't bring as many cases to conclusion."

Leadership

Under the leadership of Joseph Botka, the Youth Guidance Center works in cooperation with other city and county departments, private agencies, a volunteer auxiliary, the Mayor's office, Board of Supervisors, the Juvenile Justice Commission and the community at large.

"If you are a trained social worker, the client comes to you and you get him to recognize his problems," Foote said. "Our clients don't come to us of their own volition. We have to bastardize the social worker's condition."

"Bureaucrats seem to think a children's facility should be full," he said. I can't agree with that position. We want less children here. I don't get a

bonus for it being overcrowded.

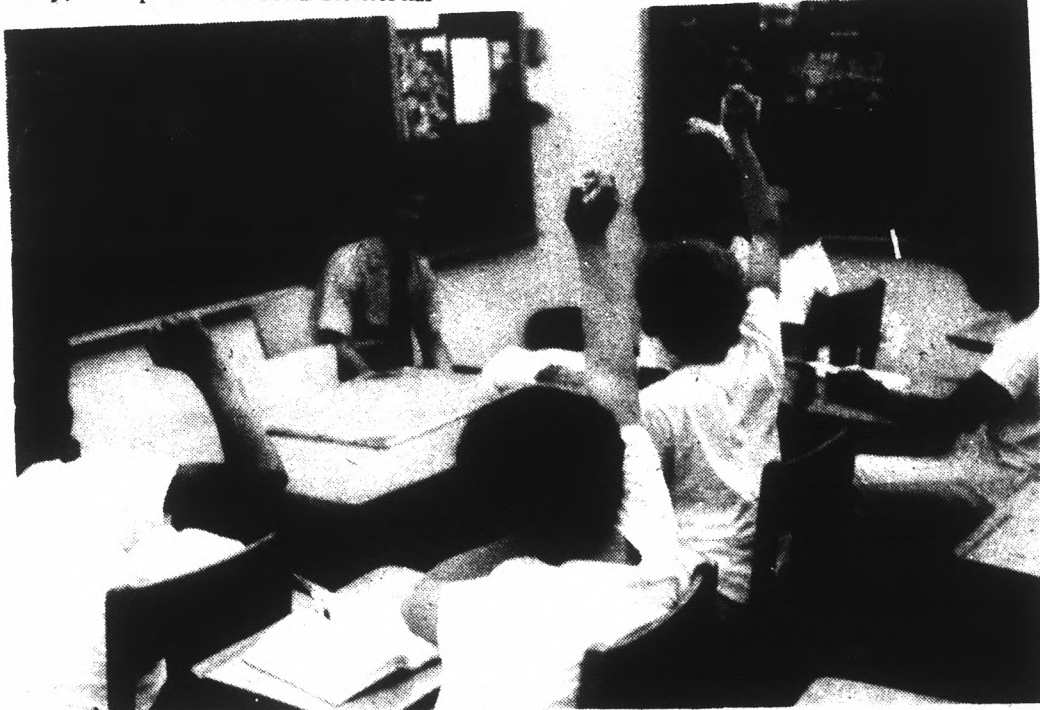
"The rules for proper conduct cannot be universal," he continued. "You make a mistake when you lay down a rule the same for a diverse community such as San Francisco."

Stages

Several new programs have been initiated, and more are in the planning stages at the Center.

"We're going to start a treatment center for girls, like the ranches we have for boys," Cassidy said. "So many have family problems, we thought a part residence part day center should be available for girls to participate in the program they needed. They could be released to go home, and if the home situation blew up, they could come back here."

Currently, the Department of Social Services has



Class within the walls of the Center



Entrance to Youth Guidance Center

helped to pay for residential and day care service for girls presently occupying the dependent children units. Mount St. Joseph's is providing short-term interim care, and St. Elizabeth's is providing care for pre-school children. Both are run by the Sisters of Charity.

"We had close to 150 dependents," Cassidy said. "Now we are down to 18."

Foote said, "The big word today is diversion. We are trying to divert youngsters away from this type of institution."

Unique experience

"In Feb. 1972, we are going into a program which will be a unique experience for us," he said.

"In a joint venture with three other groups, we will be using 10 first-year, economically poor students from City College of San Francisco to work here 20 hours a week at \$2.50 an hour."

"We're going to hone up some skills," he said, "so that if they come to work here after completing school, they'll have experience behind them."

There are several other innovations in treatment and care at the Center.

The volunteer auxiliary, which is made up of 17 teachers and one principal, is planning to expand its tutorial program with the SF State College Center for Reading Development.

The recreation director is expanding his program so people can feel free to come and initiate projects on their own while working with the Center.



the prison system